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## THE SLOANE COLLECTION IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM

By DAVID I. BUSHNELL, JR

In 1753 the British Nation acquired by purchase the large and varied collections belonging to Sir Hans Sloane, forming the nucleus of the British Museum.<sup>1</sup>

The old manuscript catalogue of the collection contains many quaint and interesting entries, often including brief though comprehensive descriptions of the objects. Unfortunately dates are seldom given, but we must remember that all the material was brought to England before 1753 and that some specimens may have been obtained during the seventeenth century.

Under the heading of "Miscellanies" are records of more than two thousand objects, gathered from various parts of the world, including many from the colonies of Virginia, South Carolina, and New England, from the Iroquois country, and the region about Hudson bay. Many of the specimens called for in the catalogue no longer exist, a fact to be regretted by all interested in American ethnology, especially as old material from the eastern part of the country is so scarce.

The object of this article is to make known and describe such specimens belonging to this old collection as now remain in the British Museum, all of which are here figured. There are, however, some stone implements, — axes, arrowheads, etc. — belonging to the collection, that were brought from the colonies. To these I shall not refer, as many similar objects are preserved in various collections, and as the ones just mentioned are of no special value. Nor shall I deal with certain specimens from the northern Eskimo, from the region of Davis strait.

Before describing the existing specimens, it will probably be of interest to quote certain notes in the catalogue, for although the material is lost, it may be of assistance in future work to know that

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<sup>1</sup> See note by the late Dr Thomas Wilson in *American Anthropologist*, II, p. 190, 1900. — EDITOR.

certain things were used at one time by the Indians along the Atlantic coast. In copying the entries I have followed the original spelling and have recorded also the number of the object as it is entered in the catalogue.

OBJECTS CATALOGUED BUT NO LONGER EXISTING  
FROM VIRGINIA

- 913 A Virginia girdle made of some rush or other such like vegetable.  
 1411 An Indian shoe from Virginia w<sup>t</sup> rattles & dy'd porcupine quills.  
 1412 The same w<sup>t</sup>out rattles.  
 1369 A Strum Strump made of a round large gourd.  
 1370 A basket of canes from the same [Virginia].

There are several references to strings of wampum, "Indian money," from Virginia and elsewhere; but I shall not quote them in detail.

FROM SOUTH CAROLINA

The colony of South Carolina was well represented in the collection, and fortunately one of the most interesting objects, which will be described later, has been preserved to the present day. Other entries in the list are:

- 1458 A negro drum from South Carolina, by Mr Standish.  
 1237 A *Maracca* or rattle of a gourd made use of by the Indians of Carolina in their triumphs, calumets etc., from Col Nicholson.

This was probably the form of rattle shown in White's drawings which were reproduced by De Bry as plates xvii and xviii in Harriot's *Virginia* (1588). The text describing the first of these plates reads:

. . . holding a certaine fruite in their hands like unto a rownde pompion or a gourde, which after they have taken out the fruits, and the seedes, then fill with small stons or certayne bigg kernells to make the more noise . . .

The *maracca* is, according to Strachey, "a rattle, such as they use in their ceremonies, made of a goard, *chmgawwonawk*."<sup>1</sup>

- 1226 An Indian bowl w<sup>t</sup> w<sup>th</sup> they play at bowls made of a gray sand stone, hollowed from Col Nicholson.  
 1485 An Indian fann made of canes some colored black, from Carolina, by Mr Dering.  
 1486 Another made of rushes.

<sup>1</sup> See note 2, page 679.

1203 An Indian apron from South Carolina made of the bark of the wild mulberry tree, this kind of cloth with a kind of basket they make with splitt cane are the only mechanical arts worth notice.

This reference at once recalls a paragraph written by an English traveler who visited the Carolinas some years after the "apron" was collected. In referring to the Catawba Indians, whose villages were near the boundary between North and South Carolina, he wrote :

The only manufacture that I can discover among them is that of party-coloured little baskets, table-mats, made of straw, and chips, or splits of different coloured wood ; and an ill-formed kind of a half-baked earthen ware.<sup>1</sup>

1655 A girdle made of Porcupine quills dyed red and black from Carolina made by the Indians.

1371 A Cherokee Indian garter made of the ravelings of the cadene<sup>2</sup> they buy of the English. From Mr Dering of South Carolina.

It is interesting to know that the custom of raveling a piece of European cloth and using the threads in native weaving was followed at so early a day. This suggests the use of bayeta by the Navaho.

The following entries in the catalogue, relating to the use of buffalo hair by the Carolina Indians, are most interesting :

1215 A rope for tying anything. Made of the hair of the head of the American bufalo. Described by Mr Hennepin.

1216 The same hair dyed red and yellow, tyed in tufts on a string, as an ornament for the Carolina Indians.

1656 A pair of garters made of the same [quills] and Buffalos hair. from the same [Carolina].

The following reference is of equal interest ; although no locality is given, the girdle probably came from Carolina :

1536 A girdle made of Bufalos hair and porcupine quills.

Buffalo hair was evidently used by many tribes, from the Atlantic to the Rocky mountains, for making cords and blankets, and, as is shown above, tufts of it were dyed and used as ornaments. When Charlevoix reached the village of the Kaskasquias (Kaskaskia) on the Mississippi, during the autumn of 1721, he wrote :

<sup>1</sup> J. F. D. Smyth, *A Tour in the United States of America*, London, 1784, p. 193.

<sup>2</sup> A sort of inferior Turkish carpet imported from the Levant.

Their women are very neat-handed and industrious. They spin the wool of the buffalo which they make as fine as English sheep. . . . of this they manufacture stuffs which are dyed black, yellow or a deep red.<sup>1</sup>

It is interesting to note that the hair was dyed yellow and red also by the Carolina Indians, as has been previously stated. That blankets were woven of twisted cords of buffalo hair is noted by Hunter :

The hair of the buffalo and other animals is sometimes manufactured into blankets, the hair is first twisted by hand and wound into balls.<sup>2</sup>

Hunter, of course, refers to the tribes inhabiting the country west of the Mississippi, more particularly to the Osage.

One more quotation will be of interest as showing the similarity of the work of the eastern and the far western tribes. Harmon, in describing certain customs of "the Assiniboin, Rapid Indians, Black feet and Mândans," wrote :

They do not often use bridles, but guide their horses with halters, made of ropes, which are manufactured from the hair of the buffaloe, which are very strong and durable.<sup>3</sup>

#### FROM NEW ENGLAND

Formerly the collection was rich in material from New England, but with the exception of three objects which are to be described later, all have disappeared. However, I shall copy from the catalogue the entries referring to New England specimens, as many include some interesting notes.

1728 An Indian breast plate which they wear when they go to warr or at any great feast—made of shells out of the up country fresh water lakes, with the collar consisting of blue and white shells, where of four blue ones make a penny and six white ones. They drill the holes with the point of a sharp flint & worle them round on a fine gritty stone. From New England, by Mr. Jno. Winthrop.

This would certainly have been a most interesting specimen, but like many others it has been lost. The "collar consisting of blue and white shells, where of four blue ones make a penny and six

<sup>1</sup> Charlevoix, *Journal of a Voyage to North America*, London, 1761, II, p. 222.

<sup>2</sup> John D. Hunter, *Memoirs of a Captivity*, etc., London, 1824, p. 289.

<sup>3</sup> Daniel W. Harmon, *A Journal of Voyages and Travels in the Interior of North America*, Andover, 1820, p. 336.

white ones," was without doubt formed of wampum beads. The next sentence, which describes the method of making the beads, contains valuable information :

1729 An Indian spoon & bowl made of the knot of a tree, which they burn hollow & then smooth and polish with a sharp flint and then soak it in their minerall springs to dye it. out of this they eat their *suckatash* which is venison, fish and indian corn boiled together.

[1730 A spoon, described later.]

1732 A bundle of Indian candles or splints of pitch tree.

1733 An Indian box made of the bark of the birch tree by the Indians and dyed by the spaw water springs.

1735 A fine large Indian basket made by an Indian Queen, by Mr Winthrop from New England.

[1736 A fish-line, described later.]

1738 An Indian *Mattump* or braided strap w<sup>t</sup> w<sup>ch</sup> they tye their children to the bark of a tree as soon as born. from M<sup>r</sup> Winthrop from New England.

1739 An Indian Calumet or stone pipe of peace.

1740 Glue made of deers horns & fishes sounds by the Indians in America to glue the feathers into their arrows.

1741 A square piece of shell worn as an ornament by the Indians & formerly current at 3 shillings in money among the Indians.

The eleven specimens referred to above were obtained from the Indians of New England by John Winthrop of the Plymouth colony.

1819 A hollow trunc, canes & spears of wood for fishing. from New England.

1820 A very large bow & arrows from New England — by Capt. Walker.

1202 A red liquor used by the Indians in New England for curing dropsy, likely to be from the fruits of the *Solanum bacciferum racemosum*.

1835 An Indian stone pestle made to beat (in a trough made of wood, burnt and hollowed by them) Indian corn to make *nocekee*.<sup>1</sup>

The last entries to be copied from the catalogue are two relating to Iroquois material :

125 A child's shoe of the Iroquois made of the maiz or Indian corn dyed.

204 A double cord made of the nerves of the *Orignac*<sup>2</sup> w<sup>ch</sup> is thread with which they sew and adjust the heads of their arrows.

<sup>1</sup> *Nókehick* : "Indian corn parched in the hot ashes . . . afterward beat to powder." — Roger Williams. The *nocake* of William Wood. — EDITOR.

<sup>2</sup> Or *original*, from the Basque word *oreña* or *oriña*, referring to the deer family. The term was transferred to America, where it became used specifically for the moose information from Mr J. N. B. Hewitt of the Bureau of American Ethnology).

## EXISTING OBJECTS

I shall now describe the existing specimens, seventeen in number, beginning with that from Virginia. Unfortunately only one piece remains in the British Museum to represent the first English colony in North America.

## FROM VIRGINIA

1368 An Indian drum made of a hollowed tree carved, the top being brac'd with peggs and thongs, w<sup>t</sup> the bottom hollow, from Virginia, by Mr Clerk.

This most interesting old specimen is formed of a single piece of wood. The extreme height is 400 mm.; the diameter of the head or top averages 245 mm.; the diameter of the base is 140 mm. The thickness of the wood forming the body of the drum is about 20 mm., but the perforation through the base is about 70 mm. in diameter, allowing the wooden wall to be about 35 mm. thick. The head of the drum is formed of a piece of untanned deerskin, passing over the outer edge of the wood, and then once around a hoop or band formed apparently of a root of a pine or a cedar tree, a section of which is about 10 mm. in diameter. About 80 mm. below the top of the drum, and placed equidistant, are six perforations passing obliquely through the wooden wall. Fitted into these perforations are movable pegs, about 140 mm. in length. The upper or exposed ends of these pegs terminate in a bulge, or bulb, with a groove at the base. Many narrow bands of cedar (?) bark, attached to the hoop around the head of the drum, pass in turn over the tops of the pegs. To tighten the head it was necessary only to tap the pegs, a very simple and ingenious device. As the heads of the pegs are much "mushroomed," it is evident the drum was often used. The decoration is in carving; probably no colors were used. It is singular, however, that the surface should have been covered with a thick, gummy substance. Much of this remains and is clearly shown in the illustration (plate xxxv). Although this drum is described in the old catalogue as being of Indian origin, it was more probably made by negroes, and may even have been taken to Virginia from Africa.

In the British Museum is a large drum from Ashanti, brought



DRUM FROM VIRGINIA



from Kumassi by Lieutenant Colonel Wolsey in 1896.<sup>1</sup> This piece, shown in figure 25, is 850 mm. high; the diameter of the top is 400 mm. Of course the base is hollow. The great similarity

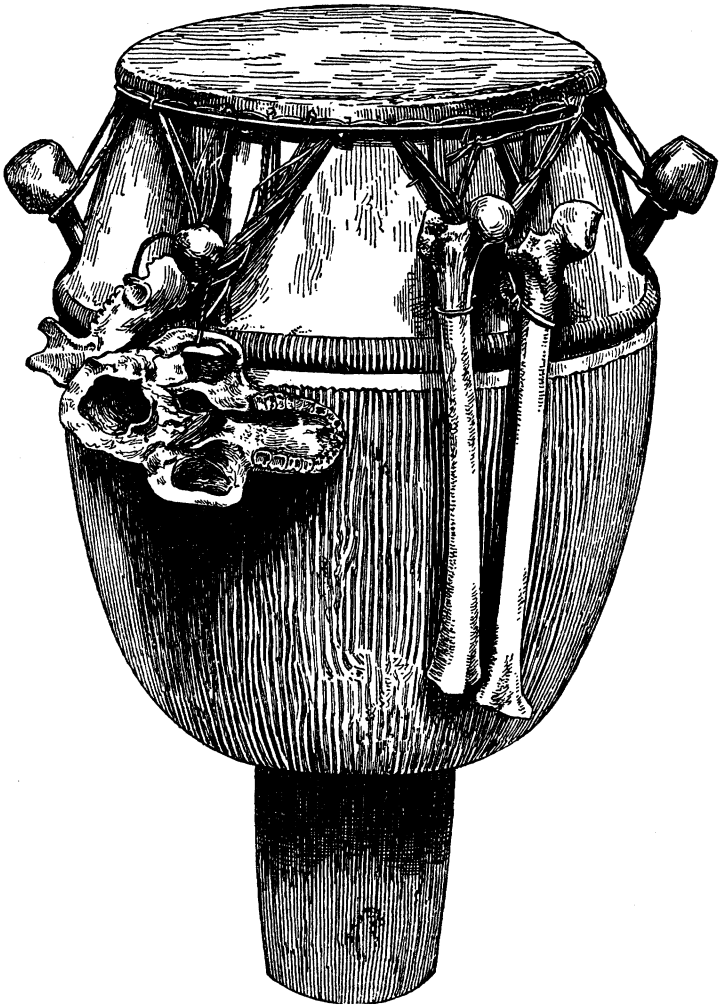


FIG. 25. — Drum brought from Ashanti, West Africa, in 1899. Shown for comparison with the Virginia drum illustrated in plate xxxv.

<sup>1</sup> A description of the use of drums of this form will be found in *The Siege of Kumassi*, by Lady Hodgson (London, 1901). An interesting plate facing page 262 of this book shows a group of natives with several such instruments.

between this and the Virginia specimen leaves little doubt as to the origin of the latter.

#### FROM SOUTH CAROLINA

Formerly the collection was rich in material from the colony of South Carolina, but now only one basket and two pipes are to be found. The basket however is a most valuable and interesting piece, and is probably a unique example.

1218 A large Carolina basket, made by the Indians of splitt canes, some parts of them being dyed red, by the fruit of the *Solanum magnum Virginianum* . . . *rubrum*, and black. They will keep anything in them from being wetted by the rain. From Coll. Nicholson, Governor of South Carolina, whence he brought them.

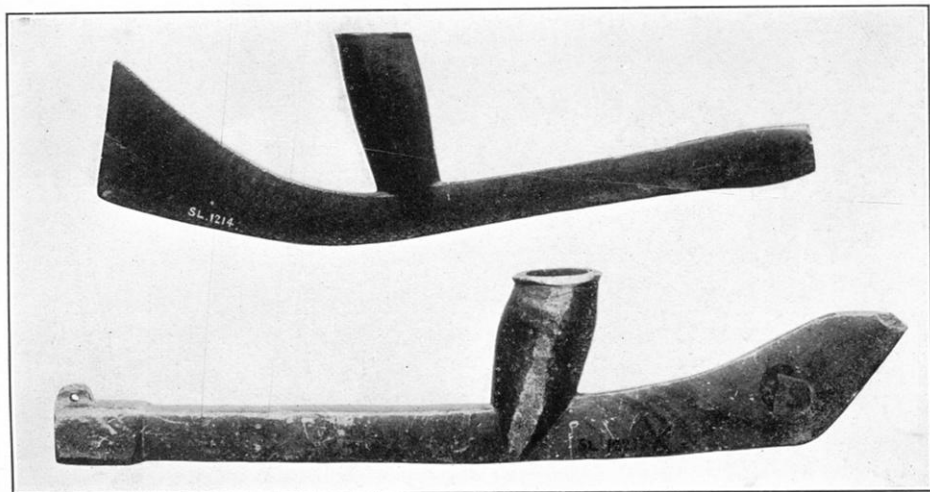
Sir Francis Nicholson, by whom this and other specimens were brought to England from the colony of South Carolina, was born in 1660 and died in 1728. He was colonial governor of South Carolina from 1721 to 1725, returning to England in June of the latter year, and evidently taking the basket with him.

The dimensions of this rare old piece are: length 520 mm., greatest width about 165 mm., and average depth 95 mm. This basket is of the type described by Adair<sup>1</sup> as being used in Carolina about the middle of the eighteenth century. The description as given by him applies perfectly to the British Museum specimen, therefore I quote it in full:

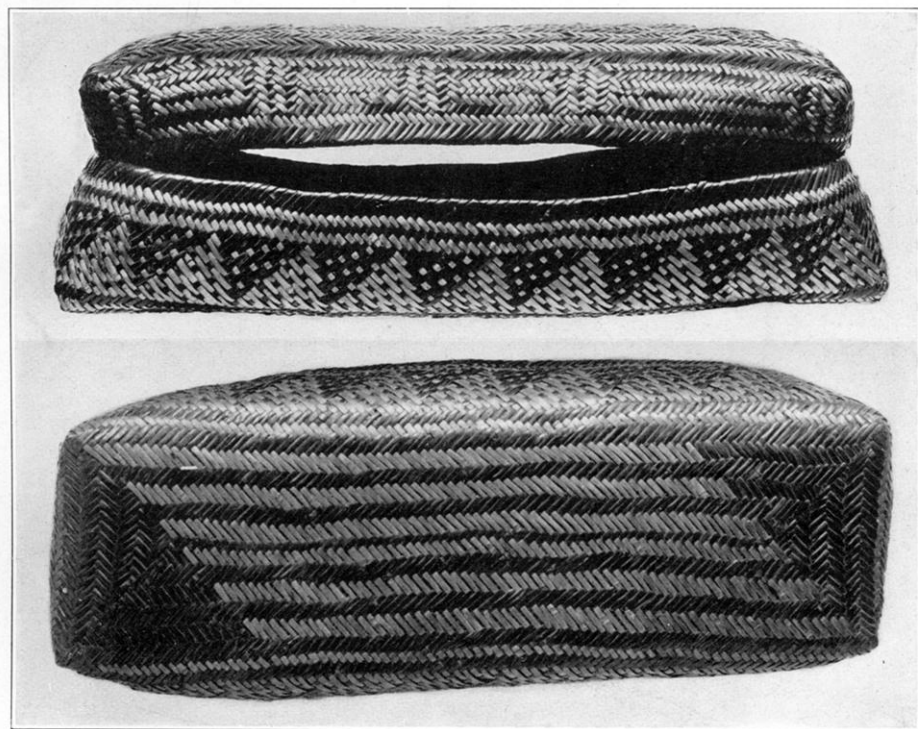
They make the handsomest clothes baskets I ever saw, considering their materials. They divide large swamp canes into long, thin, narrow splinters, which they dye of several colours, and manage the workmanship so well, that both the inside and outside are covered with a beautiful variety of pleasing figures, and, though for the space of two inches below the upper edge of each basket, it is worked into one, through the other parts they are worked asunder, as if they were two joined a-top by some strong cement. A large nest consists of eight or ten baskets, contained within each other. Their dimensions are different, but they usually make the outside basket about a foot deep, a foot and a half broad, and almost a yard long . . . Formerly, those baskets which the Cheerake made were so highly esteemed even in South Carolina, the politest of our colonies, for domestic usefulness, beauty, and skilful variety, that a large nest of them cost upwards of a moidore.

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<sup>1</sup>James Adair, *History of the North American Indians*, London, 1775, p. 424.



PIPES



BASKET (SIDE AND BOTTOM)

OBJECTS BROUGHT FROM SOUTH CAROLINA IN 1725

From this last statement by Adair we may consider this basket as having been made by the Cherokee, from whom it was probably obtained. There is a note in Lawson's *History* which probably refers to baskets of this form ; if so, it shows them to have been made away from the coast.

A great way up in the Country, both Baskets and Mats are made of the split Reeds, which are only the outward shining part of the cane. Of these I have seen Mats, Baskets and Dressing-Boxes, very artificially done.<sup>1</sup>

This basket is formed of two distinct parts, similar in shape though differing in size. Both parts are made with the rims somewhat smaller than the lower portions, causing them to fit securely when the smaller is forced into the larger. Strips of cane of two thicknesses are used in the weaving, thereby allowing different patterns to be formed on the inside and outside. The two distinct parts of the basket are interwoven for a distance of some two inches from the edge, causing it to be more rigid and firm. The colors of the strips are black and a dark red, both of which are dyed, also the natural yellowish brown. The patterns are formed either by various styles of weaving or by different arrangements of the three colors.

1214 Another [pipe] with an extant square piece cutt in the shape of the butt end of a gunn.

Made of a dark steatite. Extreme length, 200 mm. ; height of bowl above base, 47 mm. ; diameter of bowl, 20 mm., and of opening for the stem 7 mm. This pipe is the upper of the two specimens shown in plate xxxvi.

1221 The same [tobacco pipe] of a white marble or sope stone differently figured. w<sup>t</sup> the pipe [stem] of cane coloured w<sup>t</sup> spirall red stripes. There belongs to these some times a Maraca<sup>2</sup> or calabash or gourd w<sup>th</sup> something to rattle in it and five or 6 feathers of the white headed Eagle on a string. From Col. Nicholson of South Carolina.

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<sup>1</sup> John Lawson, *History of Carolina*, London, 1714, p. 189.

<sup>2</sup> The name *matraca* is applied in Porto Rico to rattles made from the calabash tree, *Crescentia cujete*, and also to *Crotalaria retusa*, the ripe seeds of which become loosened and rattle in the pod. — Cook and Collins, *Economic Plants of Porto Rico*, *Cont. U. S. Nat. Herbarium*, VIII, no. 2, 187, 1903. The word is of Arawak origin.

A very good example of an old steatite pipe. The extreme length is 243 mm. ; the diameter of opening for the stem, only 6 mm. A small projection above the end of the stem is perforated, as may be seen in the illustration.

#### FROM THE IROQUOIS

Several excellent examples of old Iroquois weaving remain in the collection, to which I shall now refer.

573 A cord made of hemp and porcupine quills died. from the Iroquois by the Indian Kings—given me by Mr Middleton—for tying their prisoners.

Mr (later Captain) Middleton, referred to in this and other entries in the catalogue, was first employed by the Hudson's Bay Company in 1720 ; he returned to England in 1742, at which time, it is safe to assume, he brought the material described in the lists. This cord, no. 573, is just 5 meters in length, woven evidently of native flax. In the middle is a band 530 mm. in length and 40 mm. in width, one side of which is decorated with porcupine-quill embroidery applied in a manner similar to the decoration on the small bag, no. 203. The quills are of three colors—red, black, and white. While the decorated band is of very fine weave, the cord attached to each end is very coarse, being composed of ten or twelve strands braided flat. The cords where they are attached to the band are about 25 mm. in width, but they taper to two strands which are separate for a distance of 400 mm. from the ends, thus forming two distinct cords. (See plate xxxvii.)

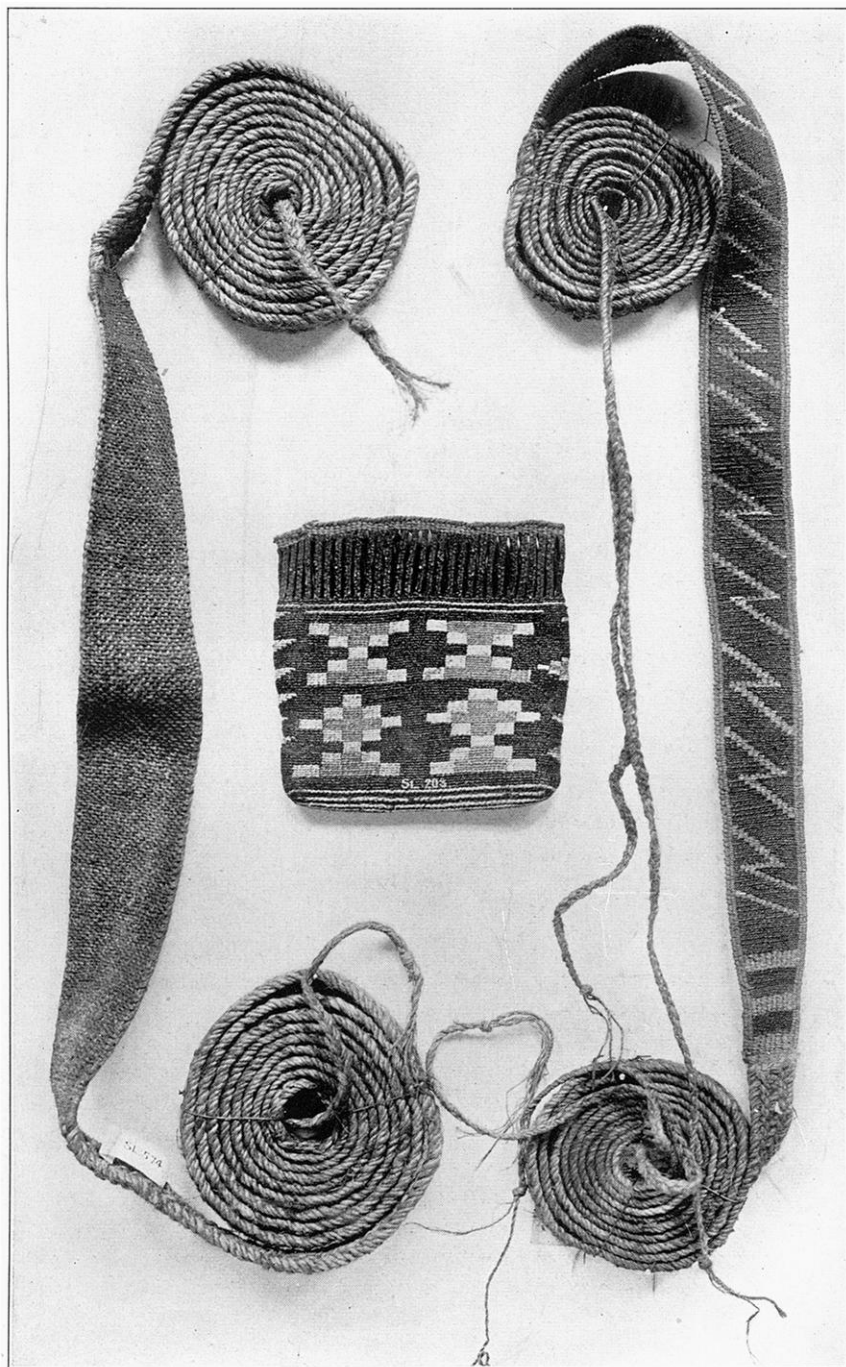
574 The same of a courser sort w<sup>1</sup> out the quills.

This cord is a trifle longer than the other, being 5.12 meters in length. The flat band in the middle is 350 mm. in length and about 50 mm. in width ; it is closely woven, but is not decorated in any way. The flat braided cords are attached to the ends of the band ; both taper to single strands.

A cord similar to this is figured by Morgan,<sup>1</sup> whose description is here given in full :

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<sup>1</sup> Lewis H. Morgan, *League of the Iroquois*, Rochester, 1851, p. 365.



IROQUOIS BURDEN STRAPS AND SMALL BAG

The burden-strap is worn around the forehead, and lashed to a litter, which is borne by Indian women on their back. It is usually about fifteen feet in length, and braided into a belt in the centre, three or four inches wide. Some of these are entirely covered upon one side with porcupine quill-work, after various devices, and are in themselves remarkable products of skilful industry. The braiding or knitting of the bark threads is effected with a single needle of hickory. . . . Of all their fabrics, there is no one, perhaps, which surpasses the porcupine-quill burden-strap, in skill of manufacture, richness of material, or beauty of workmanship.

It is certainly interesting to see how closely this description applies to the British Museum specimens, although they were collected more than a century before Morgan's account was written.

203 An Indian purse made by the Huron Savages of Canada with the crin or hair of the *Orignac*<sup>1</sup> w<sup>th</sup> they dye with roots.

This small bag, of Huron make, is 125 mm. square; the bag proper, however, is only 95 mm. deep, as an open band some 30 mm. wide passes around the top or opening (pl. xxxvii). It is made of native flax, in a simple basket weave. The outside is covered with split porcupine quills, some white, some brown, and others of a yellowish color, arranged in a simple design. The quills are fastened by being passed under and around the outer woof cords. The cords forming the open band are covered with quills dyed red. It will be observed that the description in the catalogue wrongly identifies the split porcupine-quills as the hair of the orignal, or moose.

#### FROM HUDSON BAY

The following specimens are described in the catalogue as having come from Hudson bay. They were probably obtained from Indians trading at some of the company's posts, but it is not possible to say by what tribe they were made.

2065 Thirty basketts made w<sup>t</sup> Birch Bark and adorned w<sup>t</sup> Porcupines quills, given me by Capt Middleton who brought them from Hudson's Bay.

This nest of 30 bark baskets, all similar in form and decoration and all well made, is a very interesting piece of work (pl. xxxviii). Around the top or upper edge of each basket are strips of roots or twigs bound with narrow split pieces of spruce roots. Through

<sup>1</sup> See note 2, p. 675.

this band or binding pass porcupine quills dyed red. This rim is divided into four sections by quills which take the place of the spruce-root binding. These quills are not dyed, but both the dark- and the light-colored ones are used. The smallest basket of the nest has a maximum diameter of 95 mm. and a depth of 32 mm. The greatest diameter of the largest one is 300 mm. and the depth about 86 mm. All the baskets fit closely one into the other.

201 A small racquette & [or] small snow shoe made by the savages of Canada w<sup>t</sup> w<sup>ch</sup> they walk on the snow. Sent by M<sup>r</sup> Villarmont.

202 The same.

This is a pair of small snow shoes, or, to be more exact, models of snow shoes, of the usual Algonquian type. Length, 420 mm. ; width, 140 mm.

2040 A cradle w<sup>t</sup> a pair of shoes (?) from Hudson's Bay, by M<sup>r</sup> Cotts Surgeon.

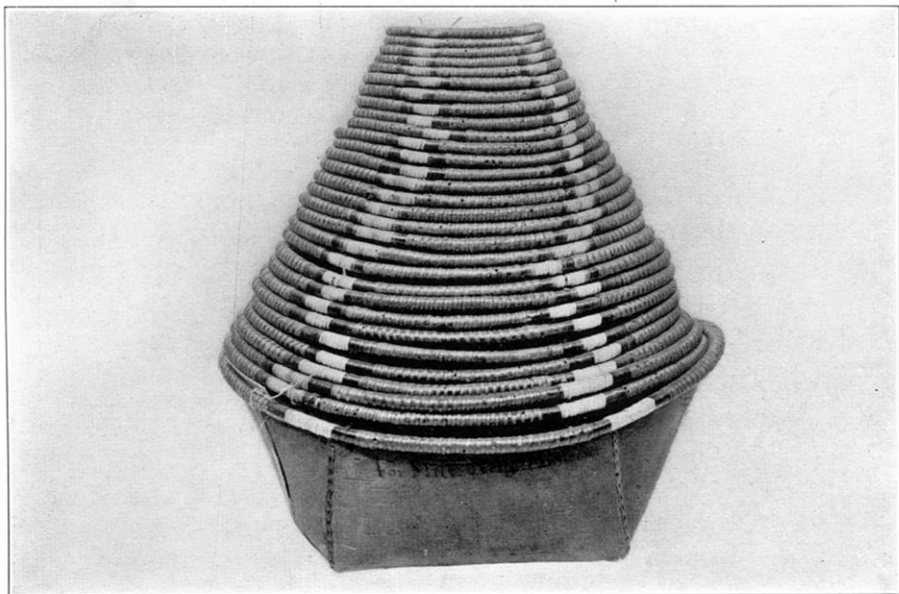
A very small cradle board made of white cedar ; extreme length, 373 mm., width, 147 mm. A narrow strip of cedar, curved and attached to the board proper, forms the frame over which the tanned buckskin is laced. The skin, which is fringed, was originally wrapped with porcupine quills colored red, but little of the wrapping now remains. Across the back of the board is a narrow band of skin to which are attached twenty strands of colored glass beads ; to the end of each strand, which is about 40 mm. long, is fastened a small tuft of dyed hair. (Plate XXXVIII.)

The last specimen shown in plate XXXVIII is a very interesting belt :

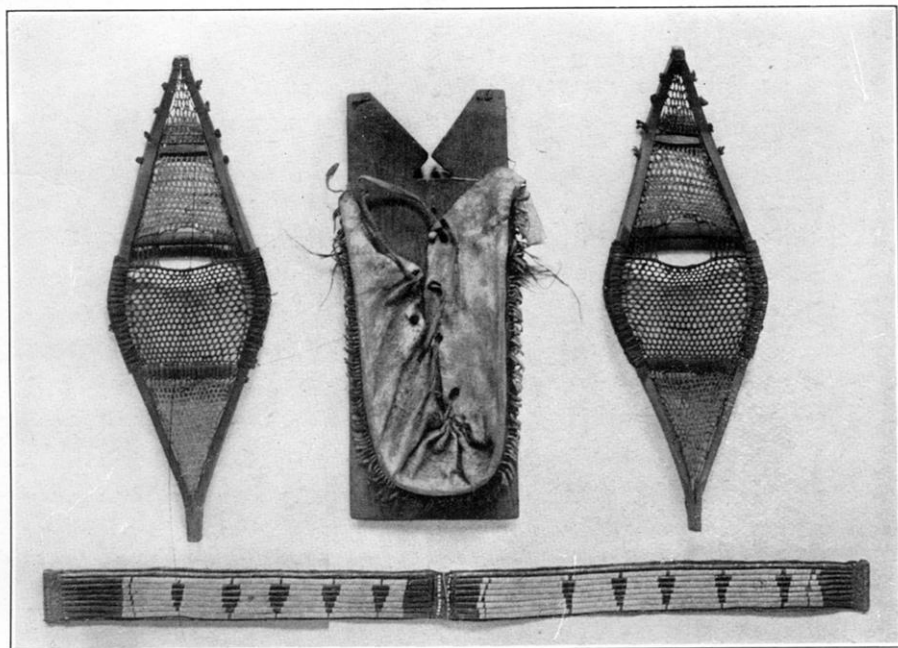
2043 A belt adorned with quills of birds or porcupines.

This object is made of a heavy, tanned skin, with a decoration in quillwork. The length is 720 mm. and the width 43 mm. The manner in which the quills are arranged and fastened is rather unusual. First, strips of bark or roots, averaging about 4.5 mm. in width, were closely and evenly wrapped with quills ; these strips, eight in number, were then fastened to the band of skin, the edges of which were stitched with quills colored red. The colors of the quills used in this piece of work are the same as those on the thirty





NEST OF THIRTY BASKETS BROUGHT TO ENGLAND BY CAPTAIN MIDDLETON IN 1742



SNOWSHOES, CRADLE-BOARD, AND BELT  
OBJECTS FROM HUDSON BAY

baskets, and there is something similar in the work. As will be seen in the illustration the ornamentation is separated into two parts, between which are two rows of small white glass beads. Pieces of wood about 5 mm. in diameter are fastened to each end of the belt.

#### FROM NEW ENGLAND

As has been shown elsewhere in this article, the colonies of New England were well represented in the Sloane collection, but of all the specimens mentioned in the catalogue only three now exist in the British Museum. It is gratifying however to have these, as they are objects of special interest.

758 A combe made of a moose horn from the east parts of New England, used amongst the native Indians.

This is certainly a strange type of comb and is probably a unique specimen (pl. xxxix). It is formed of a piece of moose antler, not more than 4 mm. in thickness, but the extreme length is 440 mm. The eleven teeth at the end are each about 58 mm. long. Incised lines and carving, producing a zigzag design in relief, form the only ornamentation. The sunken portion of the decoration as well as the straight lines are filled with a red substance, probably ocher. Near the lower end is one small perforation.

1730 An Indian Spoon made of the breast bone of a penguin<sup>1</sup> made by *Papenau*. — anno 1702. — an Indian whose Squaw had both her Legs gangren'd and rotted off to her knees and was cured by bathing in balsam water made by Winthrop Esq. of New England. The method was thus: He ordered two oxen bladders to be filled w<sup>t</sup> his Rare Balsamick Liquor, made warm and the stumps put into the Bladders w<sup>t</sup> the water kept constantly blood warm and the leggs were perfectly cured in a few days time.

Such is the inscription written on the inside of the spoon. The ink has turned brown with age, as the words were written probably more than two centuries ago, when the spoon was obtained from

<sup>1</sup> Mr. H. W. Henshaw of the U. S. Biological Survey identifies this bird with the great auk or garefowl (*Alca impennis*), which ranged as far south as Massachusetts and became extinct about 1844. Mr. Henshaw adds that the Indians knew this bird well and undoubtedly killed large numbers for food, as many of the bones have been found in kitchen-middens. — EDITOR.

the Indian Papenau. This is probably the only specimen of the sort in existence today, and it may well have been the ordinary form of spoon made and used by the Indians of New England. The length of this specimen is 104 mm. and its greatest width is 41 mm. Through the larger end are three small perforations. Probably threads of flax, or sinew, passing through the perforations, bound the spoon to a wooden or a bone handle. (See plate xxxix.)

The third New England specimen in the collection is a fish-line :

- 1736 A fishing line made of the wild Indian hemp. w<sup>t</sup> the shank bone of a fawn which serves both as hook and bait. The fish biting at it swallowing it down.

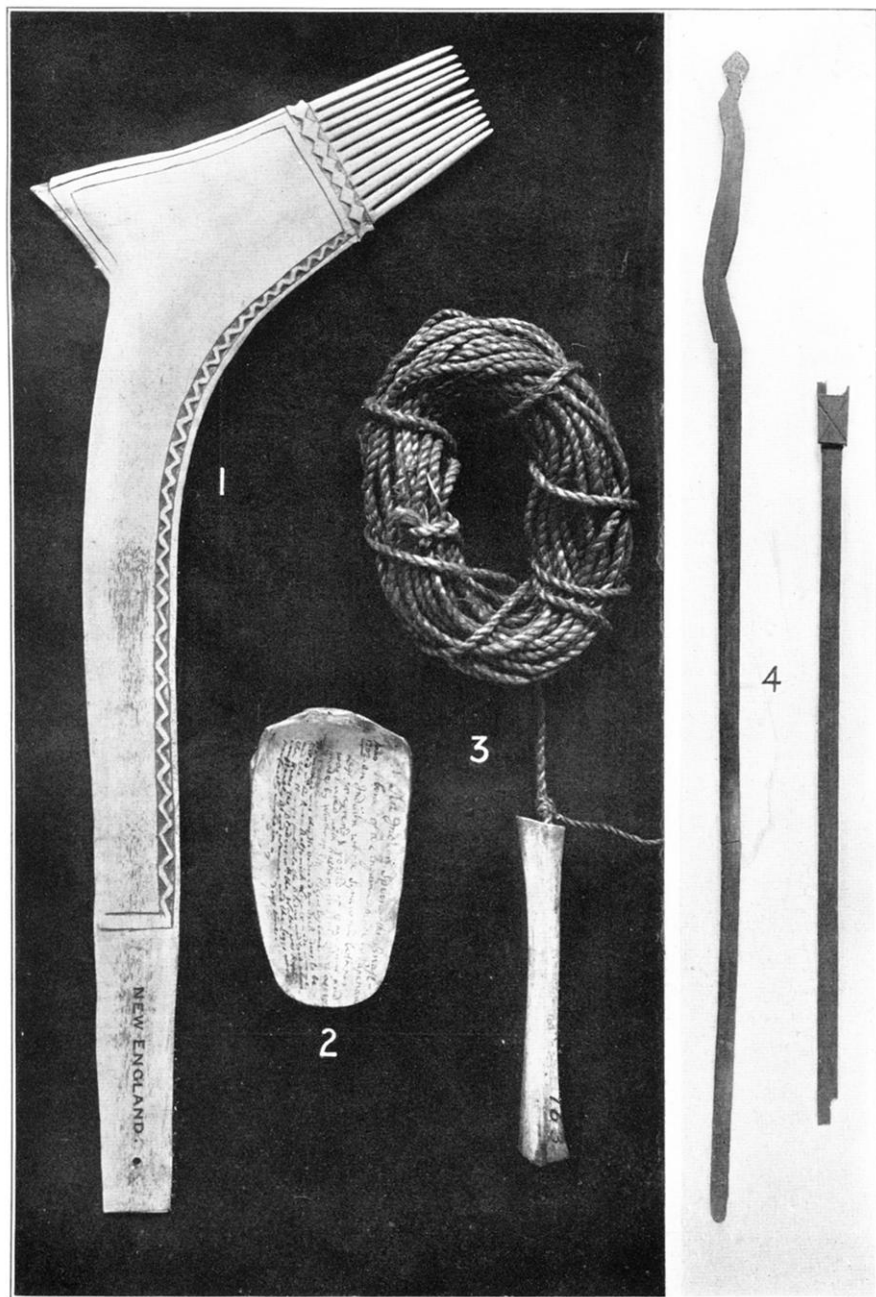
This line belongs to the collection sent by John Winthrop from New England and, according to the old label attached to the specimen, was made and used by the Indians of that region. The entire length of the cord is 13.6 meters, and of the bone 120 mm. As both ends of the bone have been cut away, it forms a tube through which the cord passes. The end of the cord is then tied, forming in this way a loop through the bone ; unfortunately this is not shown in the illustration (pl. xxxix). There is nothing to indicate how or where the sinker was attached.

#### OTHER OBJECTS

Only two objects now remain to be described. There is no way of ascertaining from what part of America these came, although they were obtained probably from the northern Indians. These specimens are shown on plate xxxix with the New England material.

- 572 A long thin piece of wood like a lath shaped like a knife with a handle which one of the Indian Kings thrust down his throat. 'Tis used as a remedy to cause vomiting as a proang [?] tho' it did not cause him to vomit.

This most unusual but not unknown object is made of hickory. Both ends are broken ; the part remaining is 515 mm. in length, with an average width of 14 mm. and a thickness of 2 mm. It is very doubtful whether these sticks were used for the purpose described, but rather were employed in ceremonies such as those performed by



1. COMB

2. SPOON

3. FISH-LINE

4. SWALLOWING-STICKS (?)

OBJECTS BROUGHT TO ENGLAND FROM NEW ENGLAND

the present Zuñi Indians and by the ancient inhabitants of the West Indies.

Another more perfect piece is :

1532 An instrument for cleaning the stomach used by the Indians of America.

This object also is made of hickory ; it is evidently entire and perfect. The length is 820 mm., the average width 15 mm., and the thickness about 2 mm.

In this article I have described all the specimens from the American colonies remaining in the British Museum as part of the original Sloane collection. Before bringing the paper to a close I desire to express my indebtedness to Mr Chas. H. Read and Mr T. A. Joyce, of the British Museum, without whose assistance it could not have been prepared.

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